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With international search report.

(54) Title: ALTERATION OF MICROBIAL POPULATIONS IN THE GASTROINTESTINAL TRACT

## (57) Abstract

Method of enhancing a resident population of microorganism in a selected site of the gastrointestinal tract of an animal, the method comprising providing to the animal a selected modified or unmodified resistant starch or mixtures thereof in combination with one or more probiotic microorganisms such that upon ingestion the starch passes through the gastrointestinal tract substantially unutilized until it reaches the selected site where it is utilised by the resident and/or the probiotic microorganisms thereof causing an increase in number and/or activity of the microorganisms.